

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ORDER NO. 2812

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served December 20, 1985

Application of V.I.P. TOURS for a)
Certificate of Public Convenience)
and Necessity to Conduct Special)
Operations--Prince George's County)

Case No. AP-85-35

By application filed December 5, 1985, as amended December 19, 1985, V.I.P. Tours ("V.I.P." or "applicant"), a general partnership, seeks authority to transport passengers together with mail, express, and baggage in the same vehicle with passengers, over irregular routes, in special operations between hotels and motels located in that portion of Prince George's County, Md., south of a line beginning at the Washington, D.C./Prince George's County, Md. border, thence along Maryland Highway 450 to Maryland Route 3, thence northerly along Maryland Route 3 to the Prince George's/Anne Arundel Counties, Md. border, and north of a line beginning at the Washington, D.C./Prince George's County, Md. border, thence along Maryland Highway 5 to U.S. Route 301, thence southerly along U.S. Route 301 to the Prince George's/Charles Counties, Md. border, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and points in that part of the District of Columbia south of a line beginning at the junction of Constitution Avenue, N.W., and Rock Creek Parkway, N.W., thence along Constitution Avenue, N.W., to 17th Street, N.W., thence along 17th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to 10th Street, N.W., thence along 10th Street, N.W., to F Street, N.W., thence along F Street, N.W., to 9th Street, N.W., thence along 9th Street, N.W., to Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., thence along Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., to Constitution Avenue, N.W., thence along Constitution Avenue to its junction with 2nd Street, N.E. ("Mall Area").

Applicant asks that the authority here sought be restricted to lectured round-trip sightseeing tours originating and ending at the above-described portion of Prince George's County, Md., and further restricted to the transportation of passengers in vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity not exceeding 15 passengers (including the driver).

Applicant currently holds Certificate No. 85 which authorizes lectured round-trip sightseeing between Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, Va., and the Mall Area. In addition, applicant holds temporary authority to serve the Day's Inn--Capital Center,

Prince George's County, Md., in a manner identical to the authority here sought. All of V.I.P.'s existing authority is restricted to vehicles with a manufacturer's designed seating capacity of 15 passengers or less including the driver.

Applicant would provide the proposed service using its existing fleet of three 15-passenger vans.

Applicant's proposed tariff includes a four-hour "Building Tour" for \$15.50 (\$9.25 for children) and a six and one-half hour "Combination Tour" for \$21.75 (\$12.40 for children). There is no extra charge on either tour for children under five, and a discounted rate of \$13 for the Building Tour and \$18 for the Combination Tour is offered to groups of 10 to 14 persons. The proposed rate for military personnel is \$14.25 per person for the Building Tour and \$19.75 per person for the Combination Tour. A review of applicant's WMATC Tariff No. 1 indicates tours of similar name and duration for \$3 less than the proposed rates with a slightly different discount arrangement. Thus, it would appear that in general applicant proposes a \$3 surcharge for service originating in Prince George's County rather than in that section of downtown Washington where V.I.P.'s certificate authorizes it to operate.

With its application, V.I.P. submitted a balance sheet dated December 31, 1984, */ indicating current assets of \$1,500 and fixed assets after depreciation of \$10,720 with current liabilities of \$3,000, long term liabilities of \$8,000, and earned surplus of \$1,220. Applicant's operating statement for the 12 months ended December 31, 1984, shows revenues of \$50,000, operating expenses of \$29,155, and net income after depreciation, taxes, and interest of \$10,413. For the first 12 months of operation of its proposed service applicant projects an additional \$30,000 revenue and \$14,250 expenses resulting in net operating income of \$15,750.

Pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 4(b) of the Compact, this application must be scheduled for public hearing to determine if the applicant is fit, willing and able properly to perform the proposed service and to abide by pertinent regulatory requirements, and to determine if the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service.

*/ Because applicant's balance sheet and operating statement will be over one year old at the time of hearing we shall direct that updated financial information be submitted prior to hearing. That information should be no more than six months old. Applicant is advised that its witness should be prepared at hearing to testify regarding the financial aspects of the service it is currently providing pursuant to temporary authority.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That a public hearing in Case No. AP-85-35 is hereby scheduled to commence Tuesday, January 28, 1986, at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Commission, 1625 I Street, N.W., Room 314, Washington, D.C. 20006.

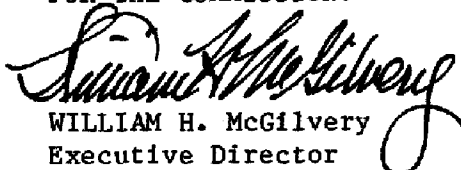
2. That V.I.P. Tours publish once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District and post continuously in all its vehicles through Friday, January 17, 1986, notice of this application and the hearing thereon, in the form prescribed by the staff of the Commission, no later than Monday, December 30, 1985, and present at the hearing affidavits of said publication and posting.

3. That V.I.P. Tours file with the Commission no later than Friday, January 17, 1986, an original and four copies of an updated income statement and balance sheet as discussed in the body of this order.

4. That any person desiring to protest this application shall file a protest in accordance with Commission Rule No. 14, or any person desiring to be heard on this matter shall so notify the Commission, in writing, no later than Friday, January 17, 1986, and shall simultaneously serve a copy of such protest or notice on counsel for applicant, Joel C. Weingarten, Esq., 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 914, Bethesda, Md. 20814.

5. That applicant is hereby assessed \$500 pursuant to Title II, Article XII, Section 19 of the Compact, and is directed to deliver said amount to the office of the Commission, 1625 I Street, N.W., Room 316, Washington, D.C. 20006, no later than Friday, January 17, 1986.

FOR THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. McGilvery
Executive Director

